



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

OCT 23 2001

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

Mr. Keith Harley  
Chicago Legal Clinic, Inc.  
205 West Monroe, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60606

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



367053

Dear Mr. Harley:

This letter is in response to the Preliminary Assessment (PA) Petition which was submitted on June 19, 2000 and supporting documentation on August 25, 2000. The petition requested that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 5 conduct a preliminary assessment under the procedure set out in Section 105(d) of CERCLA for two sets of boat slips on the Calumet River located at the former United States Steel (USX) and Wisconsin Steel Works (WSW).

As you are aware, the PA is an investigation conducted to attempt to verify the existence of released hazardous substances at a site that may fall under Superfund. A PA is a limited-scope investigation performed on sites entered into the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS). On June 12, 2000, U.S. EPA provided a copy of the draft petition to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) and the supporting documentation was provided to Illinois EPA when the official petition was received. At that time, U.S. EPA requested Illinois EPA to complete the preliminary assessment and to begin a more detailed site investigation (SI) at the slips identified in the petition. Subsequently Illinois EPA submitted to U.S. EPA site specific sampling plans in October 2000. Illinois EPA conducted site specific sampling in December 2000 and April 2001.

On August 9, 2001, U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA met to discuss possible future actions warranted by the findings of these investigations. At this meeting, both agencies agreed that the sample results justified further investigations of the contaminated sediments found in both slip areas. It was also agreed that responsible parties should be identified and notified regarding the government's intent to conduct such activities. U.S. EPA is currently identifying responsible parties. Finally the possibility of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers involvement in these activities was discussed.

Enclosed are the Reports for the activities conducted at these sites pursuant to your petition.

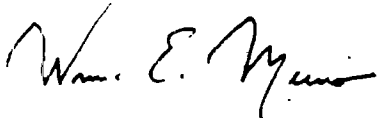
Mr. Keith Harley, Chicago Legal Clinic, page 2

---

These reports have been approved and are available to the public through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

If you have concerns or questions regarding the report, please contact Jeanne Griffin at (312) 886-3007 or if you would like to meet with U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA to discuss the report and future potential actions, please contact Rosita Clarke at (312) 886-7251 to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,



William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

Enclosures

cc: United States Steel (USX), w/cy of enclosures  
Wisconsin Steel Works (WSW), w/cy of enclosures ✓  
Illinois EPA, Office of Site Evaluation  
Thomas Martin, U.S. EPA, Region 5